

Matthew 5 – Repentance

Matthew 3:1-12

***Fallen Condition Focus (FCF):* We must not be deceived by false repentance. Only by turning in faith to Jesus can we be saved.**

Intro: Who was John the Baptist?

- Prophet
 - Last of the Old Testament prophets
 - First to come in 400 years
 - Figuratively Elijah
- Christ's herald preparing the way

True repentance bears fruit

- Hypocrisy of the Pharisees and Sadducees
- Being repentant doesn't mean you never sin again, but it is an attitude of life, acknowledging our failings and seeking to change
- You cannot have true repentance, without fruit, life change

True repentance is humble

- John confronts pride in the Pharisees and Sadducees
 - Spiritual elite
 - Pharisees looked down on others who were not as holy
 - Sadducees looked down on others who didn't have their standing in the community
- God can raise up children from the stones

True repentance is the only path to salvation

- Avoiding God's judgment
- Will this judgment come?
 - Seems like he was expecting something sooner
 - Prophetic foreshortening
- **Acts 4:12** And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.